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Control: 3546
Rec'd: November 9, 1962
10:11 PMInfo
FROM: Guatemala City

SS TO: Secretary of State

SP NO: 287, November 9, 5 PM

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Re Guatemala's offer troops, facilities, etc., in Cuban crisis reported in various messages, Captain Edgar Powell, USN arrived yesterday as General O'Meara's representative to explore specific facilities and arrangements for their use that U.S. forces might want in connection quarantine and possibly other military activities. I informed Captain Powell of mood here (EMBTEL 276 and 256) and cautioned them take pains avoid giving impression to Guatemalans U.S. expected enter here in big way or that facilities would necessarily be used in connection expanded military action. Mood President, military and even public opinion here is "all systems go." Any indications we give now that more may happen than does happen would bring more severe reaction. For these reasons, I have instructed PAO, contrary his Washington instructions just received, not to get taped interview with "highest Government official" available concerning Guatemala's offer military cooperation in respect Cuba.

Subsequent to meeting with me, Captain Powell and associates met with President Ydígoras, Defense Minister and Army Chief Staff and obtained permission U.S. armed forces use gratis "such seaport, airport and other facilities deemed appropriate carry out operations incident Cuban situation" and authorization for "free entry, personnel, supplies, materiel and equipment required in support operations." Also understood US forces would be responsible payment damages

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public or private property and for expenses incurred by them and that U.S. would assist protection U.S. equipment and property in Guatemala for such operations. Memorandum recording such understanding prepared by Captain Powell and copy given Ministry Defense this morning.

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